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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

A problem just starting to rear its head in regards to Microsoft's desktop monopoly is the company's current attempt to extend it to all Internet transactions through its .NET initiative and the accompanying C# programming language that is designed to kill Java, JREE, and other non-Microsoft Web interaction tools.

If it is the DoJ's intent to help Microsoft kill off all competitors; to in effect become the sole controller of all Internet standards, then the current proposed settlement should be allowed to stand.

If the DoJ wants to foster computer industry competition and innovation, the proposed settlement will be withdrawn, and Microsoft will be penalized harshly enough for its past lawbreaking that its management will not be tempted to break the law in the future. As a U.S. citizen who is employed in the IT industry, I would rather see competition than have one company control our entire computing infrastructure. I think you will find that my opinion is shared by almost all people in this business who do not work directly or indirectly for Microsoft.

It is sad that the United States Department of Justice is not protecting citizens' interests, but has decided to "lay down" for a major corporate campaign contributor. Apparently the SEC did pretty much the same thing for Enron, though.

I wish I knew a way to root out this corruption, but it's hard when both the people who make the laws and the people who enforce them are for sale to the highest bidder. Poor America. I fear for our future.

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